

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of April 16, 2014  
Lansing Community College West Campus  
5708 Cornerstone, Lansing

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

The following Board members were present:

Brad Canale  
Keith Creagh  
Sam Cummings  
Erin McDonough

Mr. Charters was not in attendance due to being out of state.

Also in attendance were various staff members of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other interested parties.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the minutes for the February 19, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CANALE, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, TO  
ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2014 MNRTF BOARD  
MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the agenda for the April 16, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

Chairperson Cummings stated that there will be an update on the DNR, Parks and Recreation Division's Old Mooring Place Acquisition project (TF13-131), which was approved in 2013. This will be under "Public Appearances."

**MOVED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO  
ADOPT THE MODIFIED AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 16, 2014 MNRTF BOARD  
MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

### III. INTRODUCTIONS.

Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management Section, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, introduced himself and Grants Management Section staff: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, MNRTF), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant to staff and Board), Ms. Janet Liesman (MNRTF Financial Analyst), Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator), Amy Matisoff (Grant Coordinator), and Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator).

Mr. DeBrabander wished to publicly thank Ms. Stafford for all her work on the Grants Management Section's new on-line application and database system.

Mr. DeBrabander also introduced Ms. Tina Stojakovich, Marketing and Outreach Division, DNR. Ms. Stojakovich has done a tremendous amount of marketing work for the MNRTF program, including press releases, brochures, website work, etc.

The Board members introduced themselves.

### IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

#### Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy, commented about the MNRTF reaching the milestone of awarding \$1 billion in grants. He stated that the program and its local partners and local units of government throughout the state have been one of the most cost-effective uses of public money.

Mr. Bailey referenced, as an example, the "Headlands" Park project in northern Michigan, that was assisted by the MNRTF. This project has been designated as the ninth international dark sky park in the world. The project continues to be a principal economic development driver in northern Emmet County.

Mr. Bailey further stated that the MNRTF not only is good business, but is good for business.

#### Mr. Mark Brochu, Director, Parks and Recreation, St. Clair County

Mr. Mark Brochu, Director of Parks and Recreation, St. Clair County, advised the Board that the county has closed on the property adjacent to the St. Clair River (TF11-116). A total of 1.8 acres of restored shoreline was donated. This is now a four-acre parcel that the county is beginning with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant of \$1 million, in addition to a Coastal Wetlands grant. The project is called the "Blue Water Riverwalk".

The Acheson Ventures group, who were the owners of the property, has offered an additional two acres for sale. The county has submitted an application for possible acquisition of this additional property.

Mr. Brochu also stated that a designation of the project will be held May 10, 2014. This trail has been designated as the first national water trail in the State of Michigan and the 12<sup>th</sup> nationally. The ceremony will take place at Bakers Field Park in Port Huron Township. He invited the Board members to the celebration. There will be federal legislative representation at the ceremony.

Ms. Marlene Golovich, Clerk, Hayes Township

Ms. Marlene Golovich, Clerk of Hayes Township, advised the Board that the township closed in January on the Camp Sea Gull property (TF12-036) in January. There will be a ribbon-cutting on June 7, 2014 and the Board is invited to attend.

The township has submitted an application for possible funding in 2014. This application would be for a boat launch.

Ms. Golovich praised DNR staff for their assistance with the appraisal process.

Mr. Brad Garmon, Director of Conservation, Michigan Environmental Council

Mr. Brad Garmon, Director of Conservation for the Michigan Environmental Council, made comments about strategy and economic impact of property values, as well as the perception of public land access and recreation.

Mr. Dave Forstat, GIS Manager, Forest Resources Division, DNR – DNR GIS Presentation

Mr. Dave Forstat, GIS Manager for Forest Resources Division, DNR, made a presentation on the DNR's Geographic Information System (GIS) system. A GIS integrates hardware, software and data for capturing, managing, analyzing and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. This is a layer of maps/data that can be overlaid on top of each other. These can be displayed in a query format.

GIS provides a common platform for data-sharing, which enhances work flow, decision-making and coordination across the DNR, with other government entities, private industry and the citizens of Michigan.

The DNR has been involved in GIS since 1979, when a base map was developed for the entire state with roads and infrastructure (rivers, lakes, streams). From there, the DNR included soil survey information. In 1983, some high-powered work stations were purchased. These were costly at the time, but now GIS information can be obtained on desktop/laptops or mobile device.

Water and gas level locations were added by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This is part of the state system.

At this time, there are approximately seven terabytes of spatial, natural resource data. There are over 450 registered DNR users. The GIS system is available to DNR, DEQ, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and other staff on the State of Michigan Network. GIS Shapefiles are available upon request or from the DNR web.

DNR foresters in the field operate hand-held GPS system equipment to collect forestry data, which is done year-round. Forest Resources Division is beginning to migrate away from the hand-held equipment, so tablets are being explored to use in the field. When data is collected, it is put into Forest Resources' inventory system.

There are approximately 800 static and dynamic DNR data layers within the enterprise environment. These include:

- DNR Ownership (parcels)
- Minerals (oil and gas, metallic, sand and gravel, etc.)
- Leasing/Mining
- Land Acquisition Funding Sources
- Trails
- Forest Inventory
- State Parks, Recreation Areas, Game Areas, Forest Campgrounds
- Natural Rivers
- Endangered Species
- Critical Dunes
- Watersheds
- Boating Access Sites

The non-DNR managed GIS datasets include:

- Federal Land – US Forest Service, National Parks and US Fish and Wildlife
- Military Lands – Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
- Tribal Lands – Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Conservation Lands – The Nature Conservancy
- Census Data – US Census Bureau
- Climate Data – NCDC/NOAA
- Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) – Ducks Unlimited

Grants Management's recreation projects (legal descriptions and maps) for the MNRTF, Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport Grant programs are being included in the GIS system. There is currently a backlog of projects to be put into the system.

Metadata is "data about data" that describes other data, summarizes basic information about data, which can make finding and working with particular instances of a dataset easier. Metadata contains information that describes the dataset. Some examples are:

- Date Created
- Spatial Domain
- Contact Information
- Positional Accuracy
- Coordinate System
- Data Attributes – Descriptions/Definitions

GIS data is used in the DNR to make land management decisions. Examples are:

- Query all parks and recreation areas (federal/state/county/local) within 1320 feet along I-96 from Lansing to Grand Rapids. This involves 30 different GIS layers.
- Query the number of DNR staff that work within 30 minutes (driving time) of the DNR's Cadillac Customer Service Center. This involves eight different GIS layers.

The DNR is making its GIS data available to the public. Examples are:

- Updating DNR web for easy data downloads.
- Web enabled, interactive map viewing tools – "Map Gallery".
- Mobile-friendly application development; Mi-HUNT, Trails Viewer.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of commercializing data.

Mr. Canale asked about areas of the state where the internet access is lower and how someone could obtain information. Mr. Forstat responded that someone could download information to function off of satellite as to where they need to go. Michigan is a little behind on the web side of GIS for the public.

Ms. McDonough stated, referring to the gap analysis for recreation, this appears to make it easier to identify recreational needs. Mr. DeBrabander asked if the gap in the data was in state or local recreation needs. Mr. Forstat said the system has the ability to include recreation needs. At this time it only has state-managed facilities.

Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR – TF13-131, Old Mooring Place Acquisition  
– UPDATE

Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, provided the Board with an update of the Old Mooring Place Acquisition project (TF13-131). This project was awarded to the division in 2013 for a parcel of property in Peninsula Township, Grand Traverse County, for a new boat launch.

There was a concern with some of the local residents in the area regarding an existing road ending. The DNR was asked to go back to the township for discussion on the road ending. The DNR has met with the township a couple of times and looked at any other additional property in the area. In the meetings the township was asked if they had any property that could possibly be used for parking so that the existing site could be used and the new site could be swapped around for a beach area (Haserot Beach).

Some properties were found that the township has at the present time and the DNR developed a concept plan (two developed with possibly another one forthcoming) to give the township some options. A plan was also prepared for the existing site (Old Mooring site).

On May 1, the DNR will be meeting with the township again. At the end of May, the township will be having a board meeting (public meeting) to talk about the issue as to what they would like to do next (buy property, use existing Haserot Beach for a boat launch).

Progress is being made, and the township has been easy to work with. Hopefully a decision will be reached to meet everyone's needs.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

"Long-Term Strategy" Subcommittees

Mr. DeBrabander outlined the two subcommittees that have been formed – the Funding and Finance Subcommittee and Program Review Subcommittee. Mr. Canale and Chairperson Cummings serve on the Funding and Finance Subcommittee, and Ms. McDonough and Mr. Charters serve on the Program Review Subcommittee.

There was a kick-off conference call with Mr. Canale, Chairperson Cummings and various DNR staff to discuss what was to be achieved and also who else we wanted to bring in to the subcommittee. Some of our users will be invited to participate in the subcommittee and join in discussions. What is being focused on now is:

- Evaluating how to partner with foundations (what this would mean, look like).
- If funding could be combined with MNRTF funding on priority recreation projects.
- If there is the potential to offset our grant cycle limitations.
- Flexibility for projects that come up after the application deadline.

- Looking at regional planning efforts.
- Explore the potential for other funding sources to assist communities in need with match requirement (will be talking to foundations regarding this).
- Discussing whether the MNRTF can or should become a member of the Council on Michigan Foundations.
- Bring others into the subcommittee.
- Schedule of when we want to get all accomplished.

Any changes that would be made for the 2015 grant cycle would need to be approved by the Board by their August 20, 2014 meeting so staff would have time to implement the changes.

The Program Review Subcommittee also had a kick-off conference call. Ms. McDonough and Mr. Charters serve on this subcommittee, along with DNR staff. Membership for this subcommittee will also be expanded. What is being focused on now is:

- Receiving input from our users.
- Board priorities will be looked at and will be evaluated for possible changed.
- Staff analyses looking at goal-oriented outcome based decision-making. An example of a goal is to have access to the public on the Great Lakes every five miles.
- How scoring criteria would be developed.
- How Board priorities would be developed.
- Doing gap analysis to find out where we already meet the standard – where there are gaps, what it would cost to meet the goal, etc.
- Is scoring achieving the desired outcome.
- Economic impact of the project – how can it be worked into the system.
- Regional planning – how can we work closer with prosperity regions.
- How do we tie in and align the MNRTF recommendations within the SCORP, Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks, Trails Report, and other division reports.
- Collaboration – to encourage with our partners and other agencies within the state.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS.

### Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander outlined various MNRTF staff activities that have occurred since the Board's last meeting.

- Mr. DeBrabander and Mr. Mayes and two Grant Coordinators will be serving on each of the two Board subcommittees.
- Project Agreements for the 2013 MNRTF projects will be sent out soon.

- With the Governor signing the MNRTF bill, this puts the MNRTF over \$1 billion in awards being granted.
- The new Grants database is up and running. There were 156 MNRTF applications received.
- Mr. Mayes has been spending a lot of time working with past grantees to close out older grant projects.
- Mr. Sam Duncan, who used to have Ms. Liesman's position, has taken a new position in the Department of Education. Mr. Duncan most recently was the Marine Safety/Land and Water Conservation Fund/Recreation Passport Program Manager.
- Grants Management Section have been receiving a number of dedications and ribbon-cutting ceremonies for recreation projects. Grants staff tries to attend as many as possible, but if they are unable to attend, oftentimes another DNR division staff member will represent the DNR. The dedication/ribbon-cutting process for all grantees has been a grant requirement, as indicated in the project agreement, for a couple of years now. If the MNRTF Board members receive an invitation to a dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony, please let Mr. DeBrabander know if you plan to attend.
- Memorandums of Understanding for DNR 2013 projects will also be sent out soon; however the Old Mooring Place Acquisition project (TF13-131) will not be sent out until the issues have been resolved.
- Grants are looking at technology for the Grant Coordinators to use for field reviews. Ms. Matisoff is taking the lead on this.

Ms. McDonough mentioned that Mr. Don Inman, a former DNR staff member, was instrumental in coming up with the idea of taking the oil and gas revenue and using it for a natural resources benefit. He was inducted into the Environmental Hall of Fame last week.

#### 2014 Application Cycle

Mr. DeBrabander reiterated that there were 156 MNRTF applications received by the April 1 due date. Of these 156 applications, 17 local acquisition (\$8.9 million) and 10 state acquisition applications (\$9.6 million) were received. Total acquisition applications were 27, requesting \$18.5 million.

There were 119 local development applications (\$23.5 million) and 10 state development applications (\$2.5 million) received. Total development applications were 129, requesting \$26.1 million.

Total MNRTF requests (acquisition and development) are \$44.7 million.



## DNR Divisions MNRTF Projects – LAPSED FUNDS

### TF11-004, Seeley Creek Park Development, Grattan Township – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Mayes outlined three state projects where funds were requested to be lapsed:

- TF10-161, Huron Mountains Deeryard Complex, DNR, Wildlife Division (\$628,938.89)
- TF10-162, Gregory State Game Area Land Initiative, DNR, Wildlife Division (\$99,104.04)
- TF10-157, Big Trout Lake, DNR, Forest Resources Division (\$633,631.42).

Mr. Mayes also outlined three state projects that were requested to be withdrawn:

- TF07-134, AuTrain Basin Waterfowl Refuge Project-Phase I, DNR, Wildlife Division (\$1,217,402.44)
- TF10-139, AuTrain Basin Waterfowl Refuge Project-Phase II – DNR, Wildlife Division (\$1,246,208.11)

Negotiations have stopped and the UP Hydro Board has determined it is not in their company's best interest to continue with the transaction.

- TF12-128, Public Land Access and Consolidation Staszuk Parcel, DNR, Forest Resources Division (\$196,504.65)

Property was appraised and an offer made. After negotiations with the landowner, the landowner was no longer interested in selling the property.

Mr. Mayes outlined a request from Grattan Township to withdraw their grant for the Seeley Creek Park Development (TF11-004) in the amount of \$23,400 due to budgetary reasons.

**MOVED BY MR. CANALE, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO APPROVE THE LAPSES FOR STATE PROJECTS TF10-161, TF10-162, AND TF10-157; AND WITHDRAWALS OF STATE PROJECTS TF07-134, TF10-139 AND TF12-128; AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF11-004, SEELEY CREEK PARK DEVELOPMENT, GRATTAN TOWNSHIP. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

## VII. STATUS REPORTS.

### DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

No discussion.

### Completed MNRTF Projects Report

No discussion.

### MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Joseph Frick, Assistant Division Chief, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, outlined the MNRTF Financial Report. The report before the Board does not include the lapsed or withdrawn projects.

The acquisition amount available will go up, which currently has a \$9 million balance. He anticipates there will be more withdrawals and/or lapses. With the lapses and withdrawals today, this totals an additional \$5.8 million in acquisition funding. For development projects, there will be over \$500,000 from lapses and withdrawals.

Mr. DeBrabander added that staff has been notified of another \$4.2 million that will be lapsed/withdrawn from an acquisition project. This will be before the Board at their June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.

### MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

### VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS ARE PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD.

Mr. DeBrabander advised the Board that House Bill Resolution EE was introduced not long ago by Representative McMillan. This resolution is proposed to amend the constitution by abolishing the State Park Endowment Fund and that fund balance would go to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for road repairs. It would also reduce the cap of the MNRTF from \$500 million to \$200 million. The \$300 million balance would also go to MDOT. Mr. DeBrabander does not know if any action has been taken on this resolution.

Mr. DeBrabander responded that there are seven bills that have been introduced and still active that would affect the MNRTF. The majority of these are from last spring and involve dredging, but they are still on the books.

Chairperson Cummings stated that it is important that Board members utilize whatever influence they have on some of these legislators to make them aware of the intent of the MNRTF.

Mr. DeBrabander stated that he will email the Board copies of the resolution.

Director Creagh made the suggestion that after Mr. DeBrabander sends this resolution to the Board, that Mr. Trevor VanDyke, Chief of Legislative and Legal Affairs, DNR, make a comment as to whether or not there is any potential of passage.

Mr. Tom Bailey added that through the State Association of Land Conservancies bills of this type are being watched all the time and partnering with other groups in the conservation, environmental and recreation communities to monitor and assess bills – when to express their opinion and when to just let the bill die on its own.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 18, 2014, Peninsula Township Hall, 13235 Center Road, Traverse City, Michigan.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO  
ADJOURN THE MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

---

Sam Cummings, Chairperson  
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Board of Trustees

---

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager  
Grants Management Section  
Finance and Operations Division

---

DATE